

ECHOES of *Glen Echo Park*

A Publication of the
Glen Echo Park Foundation
301-320-2330

Vol. 9, No 2
April 1998

May 17 - A Day of Art, Dance, and Theater at Glen Echo Park

Art in Action

On Sunday, May 17, the Foundation in cooperation with the NPS is sponsoring Art in Action at Glen Echo Park. The event will emphasize the wealth of talent and the range of activity available at the park throughout the year. From 1:00 pm till 5:00 pm, artists, theater performers, dance instructors, and environmentalists will offer a taste of their classes. Free demonstrations and mini-classes will be set up all around the park. Guitarists and other musicians will entertain as well as demonstrate their teaching techniques. Dance instructors will offer short courses in ballroom dancing and contra dancing. Glass artists will demonstrate stained glass, torch work, fused glass, sculptural lampworking, jew-



Artist Alana Hunter
demonstrating calligraphy

elry making, glass blowing, and other techniques. There will be demonstrations in sculpture, enameling, metalworking, the natural environment (including animals with scales and tails), puppetry, and pot-

tery as well as mini-classes in drawing, painting, and other arts. Several of the artists will be holding open house. Why not bring a picnic to enjoy at the park picnic tables?

Foundation Annual Meeting

After the activities, you are invited to stay for the annual Foundation meeting at 5:15 pm, at which the board will present its financial statement and give an update on the status of the park planning process (see below). Foundation members will also elect the board of directors for the coming year.

Dance

Afterwards, please stay for a lively evening of contra dancing, starting at 7:30 pm in the Spanish Ballroom (\$8 admission).

The Future of the Park

You may have noticed that Glen Echo Park has been in the news recently. Articles in the press have varied from indicating that the park was to be sold to the highest bidder to offering a considered and realistic evaluation of the options. Although the disaster scenarios have gotten the most notice, they are the least likely to occur, according to NPS. So what has been happening?

In late January the NPS issued its long awaited newsletter, outlining some initial scenarios to consider for managing the park. The scenarios ranged from changing nothing to returning most of the park to greenery to making the existing park programs

self-sustaining. The scenarios that continue the park programs are the ones favored by most people and by the NPS. What needs to be worked out is how to fund those scenarios and how to manage them. These scenarios are only a starting point. NPS is interested in any workable scenarios the community can suggest.

Since then, many meetings have been held. The first major public meeting was on February 3 and was very well attended with estimates ranging to well over 1000 people, a level that demonstrates how tremendously popular the park is in the community. Among the attendees at the meeting were Montgomery

County Executive Douglas Duncan, a representative from Congresswoman Connie Morella's office, many reporters, and a TV crew.

As a result of intervention by Connie Morella, the end date for initial public input was moved back from March to September. This will allow time for detailed planning to generate practical suggestions for the future management of the park.

On March 14 Douglas Duncan sponsored a tour of the park by elected representatives and department heads from the county, state and congress, including Connie Morella, Brian Frosh, Nancy Kopp, and Marilyn Goldwater. A public meeting at-

(Continued on page 2)

Carousel Restoration Progresses

Ongoing fund-raising for the GEP carousel's 75th Anniversary has enabled the Dentzel carousel to keep spinning smoothly. Thanks to recent donations to the Foundation's Carousel Campaign, restoration work has been accelerated. Also, this year we expect to install the third phase of the fire-suppression system.

Rosa Ragan rotates a steady stream of animals between the park and her studio. This season, the park will welcome back two jumpers (the horses that move up and down) and a lion. Ms. Ragan is sprucing up four clamshells, four ceiling panels, and a drum panel as well.

The initial restoration will be complete by 2003. The next goal of

the Carousel Committee is to create a GEP Carousel Endowment Fund. Because the carousel is actively used, even the restored paint and wood wears down. An endowment fund will continue to protect this delicate treasure.

The Carousel Committee is working steadily to ensure the future of the carousel. As ever, your help is welcome. Volunteers are needed at the committee table by the carousel. Please call the Foundation office at (301) 320-2330. Or you can make a donation in honor of the new carousel season. Contributions may be sent to GEPCF Carousel Fund, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo Park, MD 20812.

Spanish Ballroom More Popular Than Ever

The Spanish Ballroom has been enjoying record turnouts in the past few months, thanks to recent media attention. At a swing dance held earlier this month, the ballroom was full and the line of patrons awaiting entrance extended out the door and around the carousel. Swing dancing in particular is enjoying popularity among teens, some of whom seem to view the dance form, with its exciting aerial maneuvers, as the latest "extreme" sport.

At the March 14 town meeting (see page 1), several speakers stressed the qualities that make the Spanish Ballroom such a unique cultural and

historical resource for the greater Washington region. One man remarked that it was the only place to which a middle-aged person could bring both his kids and his parents. Another cited dances at the ballroom as a remedy for aggressive driving. Many pointed out that it is one of the few alcohol- and smoke-free venues for social dance anywhere, a place where dancers of all ages, ethnicities, and social status can come together for some good, clean fun.

Spanish Ballroom renovations will be delayed until the NPS has determined a management plan for the park.

The Future *(Continued from page 1)*
tended by around 500 people followed this tour.

Douglas Duncan has formed a working group to prepare a possible management scenario. The group includes representatives from the county, state, and federal governments, the Foundation, the GEP Co-operators Association, the National Campaign to Save GEP, the GEP Cultural Arts Program, and the Town of

Glen Echo. We are confident that the outcome will be positive for all users of the park and that the Foundation and its members will be able to help the park realize its full potential as a cultural arts park. The park web site at <http://www.nps.gov/glec/plan> has the latest information.

GEPCF Newsletter

Contributors: Debbie Lange, Nancy Abeles, Peter Somerville, Nancy Long, Betsy Platt

What's New in the Park?

Our park has lovely new Victorian lampposts! To really appreciate their magic and beauty, take a stroll through the park on a warm spring evening. You're in for a treat.

The Foundation has begun fundraising for new playground equipment, including a large slide, a small side, a climbing gym, and swings. We hope the new equipment will appeal to children of all ages.

We want to welcome two new cooperators. Discovery Creek Children's Museum will be moving into the stables building and will offer programs in science, history, art, and nature exploration. Their trail system will lead to the Minnehaha Creek. Alana Hunter, who is now in the yurt near the carousel, teaches calligraphy, quill cutting, and botanical arts.

Renovations to the Bumper Car Pavilion are moving along. The foundation for the columns is finished and installation of the columns comes next. If you would like to help, just show up on a Saturday afternoon and we'll put you to work.

Upcoming Events

Art in Action	May 17
Annual Foundation Meeting	May 17
Irish Feis	May 23
Irish Festival	May 24
Washington Folk Festival	May 30, 31

Give Now So That Glen Echo Park Lives!

Show your support for the park and its cultural arts programs by making a special gift now to the Glen Echo Foundation. Dollars and gifts of stock show as much support as petitions. Any amount helps. Let the NPS know that YOU want Glen Echo Park to continue to enrich the lives of your family and the extended community.

Where Does the Carousel Music Come From?

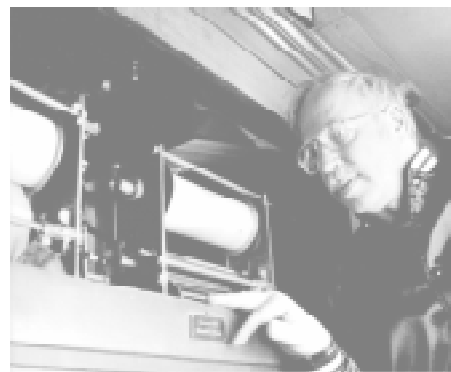
When Max Hurley stopped by Glen Echo Park in 1975, he didn't know the former amusement park had reopened. However, seeing some activity, he wandered in. The bright carousel lights attracted his attention and he signed on as a volunteer brass polisher. Two years and many shiny brass poles later, Max was invited to operate the carousel, and the enchanting ride has been under his care ever since.

The music for the carousel is provided by the Wurlitzer 165 band organ. Two large music rolls, each about the size of a paper towel roll, determine which notes are played and which pipes play those notes. Each roll holds 10 to 12 melodies, and when one roll finishes, the next roll begins. To sound the notes, the paper is pulled across a metal cylinder with 75 columns of holes in it, called a tracker. When a hole in the tracker corresponds with a hole in the paper, air pushes through the two holes and a note plays.

Who makes the music rolls? At one time they were made by the Wurlitzer and TRT companies. Today they are created by only a handful of people, and Max is one of them. He began his first roll in 1990. After he had created five songs, he tested the roll on

the band organ and a rider offered to buy it. Max agreed to make a copy when it was done. The following summer, while Max was working on his second roll, he got another request for the first roll. Thinking he could not possibly find the time to produce two copies when it took an entire year to produce the original, he consulted his assistant, Matt Caulfield, and learned that a man in California was creating a copying machine that would be ready the following year. By the time the machine was ready, Max had finished his second roll and he sent the two rolls out for copying. The minimum order was 18 copies per roll, but that was no problem. Max gave a copy of each roll to Glen Echo Park and sold the rest.

Max makes his own arrangements for the tunes, drawing on his background in piano, organ, and accordion. Composing for a band organ is no easy task, since it requires composing not just for one instrument but for several. The Wurlitzer 165 has four sections: bass, accompaniment, melody, and trumpet, and the instruments include a tuba, a wood trumpet, a wood trombone, a piccolo, two sets of violins, a flute, a glockenspiel, castanets,



Max Hurley setting up the music rolls

a triangle, and crash cymbals. Each of the 75 columns of holes in the tracker corresponds to a pipe that emulates a musical instrument. To cut the rolls, Max uses a spring-loaded punch to make holes in the paper. To increase the duration of a sound, he connects two holes using an X-ACTO knife.

When you come into the park today, the music you hear on the carousel might be from Wurlitzer, from TRT, or from our very own music roll maker, Max Hurley. If you would like to take Max's music home with you, you can purchase his tape cassette at the Glen Echo Park Gallery and Bookshop.

Yes!

I want to be a member of the Glen Echo Park Foundation and be part of the continuing effort to restore and enhance the park as a center for cultural, educational, and recreational pursuits.

Please enroll me in the following category:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Basic Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Golden Dancer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Supporting | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Brass Ring Club |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 1891 Club | <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Silver Stander | |

I want to make an additional donation of \$ _____ to the:

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Restoration Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Carousel Restoration Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish Ballroom Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Bumper Car Pavilion Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please send details on stock or property donations <input type="checkbox"/> My employer will match my contribution. I am enclosing the appropriate forms | | | |

Mr/Mrs/Ms _____ Date _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Telephone (home) _____ (work) _____ E-mail address _____

Please charge my contribution to my ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard Card Number _____ Expiration _____

Signature _____

I would like to volunteer: ☐ at park events ☐ in the office ☐ with the restoration projects ☐ with fundraising

My skills or interests are _____

The Glen Echo Park Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, and membership and donations are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to the Glen Echo Park Foundation.

Please mail to: Glen Echo Park Foundation, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Boulevard, Glen Echo, Maryland 20812

Park Artists Honored

Several of the artists at Glen Echo Park have received recognition for their work.

On March 1, **Walt Bartman**, director of the Yellow Barn Studio and Gallery, was featured on the CBS Sunday Morning TV program. The host, Charles Osgood, focused on Walt's accomplishments as an art teacher at Walt Whitman High School in Montgomery County, where he has taught for 26 years. Osgood paid tribute to Walt's ability to inspire his students, noting that Walt has taught eight Presidential Scholars, more than any other teacher in

the country. Walt was also honored by the Montgomery County Council on April 7 for showing "what a difference one person can make in the life of a student, a family, a community, a country, and a nation."

Metalsmith **Deborah Dubois** was featured in the *Smithsonian* magazine (September 1997) for her meticulous rebuilding of the sumptuous diadem that Napoleon gave to Empress Marie-Louise on the occasion of their marriage. The diadem contains more than 1,000 diamonds and 79 turquoise stones. It is on display at the Museum of Natural History.

The Puppet Co. was selected by *Child* magazine as one of the top ten destinations in the US for children's activities. Treat yourself to one of their magical productions, and you'll understand why.

The Maryland House of Delegates and State Senate both passed resolutions recognizing **Adventure Theatre** for their "long and distinguished record of outstanding cultural and entertainment pleasure" that they have provided to countless people. The theater is well-known throughout the area for their outstanding performances and training.

Fran Norton Leaves Glen Echo Park

Since 1994, Fran Norton has been Manager of the Cultural Resources Unit for the GW Memorial Parkway. As Glen Echo Park is a cultural resources unit of GWMP, Fran has been the park's manager. More than that, she has been a sounding board and a source of guidance for the Foundation. The time has come, however, for Fran to move up. She has accepted an appointment as Chief of Interpretation and Resource Management at Fort Sumter National Monument in South Carolina. The



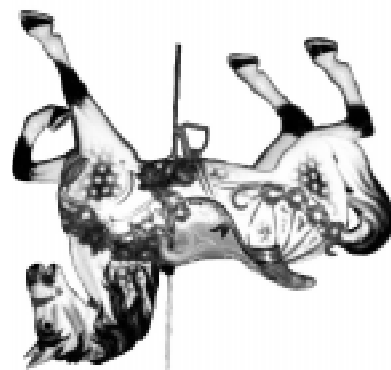
transfer will provide a career opportunity, she says, as well as a chance to be closer to the retirement home she and her husband own in Florida.

Fran came to Glen Echo Park from Wolf Trap Farm Park, where she was a Supervisory Park Ranger. She received her BFA degree in painting and graphic arts.

Fran has expressed optimism for the outcome of the current Glen Echo Park planning process. "I hope everyone will get what they want," she says. What will she miss most about Glen Echo Park? "The people here," she says. We will certainly miss Fran. We wish her well in her new position and life in the south.

Reduce your capital gains liability. Make a charitable contribution of stock or property to the Glen Echo Park Foundation. Call 301-320-2330 for details.

The Glen Echo Park Foundation works in cooperation with the National Park Service. Its goals are to preserve the existing structures, enhance the park setting, and develop and support the cultural and educational programs.



Glen Echo Park Foundation
7300 MacArthur Blvd
Glen Echo, MD 20812

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
ROCKVILLE MD
PERMIT #4297